

What is claimed is:

1. An implantable cardiac rhythm management device, comprising:
 - 5 a sensing channel for sensing an electrogram signal representing cardiac electrical activity and circuitry for generating a chamber sense when the electrogram signal exceeds a specified threshold;
 - one or more stimulation channels for delivering electrical stimulation to a subject's heart;
 - 10 a controller programmed to detect a tachyarrhythmia from the rate at which chamber senses are generated and to cause delivery of anti-tachyarrhythmia therapy through one or more of the stimulation channels upon detection of a tachyarrhythmia;
 - a telemetry interface by which the controller may communicate with an external device; and,
 - 15 wherein the controller is programmed to disable the delivery of anti-tachyarrhythmia therapy for a specified time interval upon receipt of a temporary suspend command from the external device via the telemetry interface and to re-enable the delivery of anti-tachyarrhythmia therapy upon expiration of the specified time interval.
- 20 2. The device of claim 1 wherein the specified time interval for which the delivery of anti-tachyarrhythmia therapy is disabled is communicated to the implantable device by the external device via the telemetry interface.
- 25 3. The device of claim 1 wherein delivery of anti-tachyarrhythmia therapy is re-enabled before expiration of the specified time interval by receipt of a resume command from the external device via the telemetry interface.

4. The device of claim 1 further comprising a magnetic switch actuated by application of a magnetic field and wherein delivery of anti-tachyarrhythmia therapy is re-enabled before expiration of the specified time interval by actuation of the magnetic switch.

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5. The device of claim 3 further comprising an activity sensor for measuring an activity level and wherein delivery of anti-tachyarrhythmia therapy is re-enabled before expiration of the specified time interval upon measurement of an activity level above a specified threshold value.

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6. The device of claim 1 wherein the controller is further programmed to disable the delivery of anti-tachyarrhythmia therapy indefinitely upon receipt of an indefinite suspend command from the external device via the telemetry interface and to re-enable the delivery of anti-tachyarrhythmia therapy upon receipt of a resume command.

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7. The device of claim 6 further comprising a magnetic switch actuated by application of a magnetic field and wherein the resume command is communicated to the implantable device by actuation of the magnetic switch.

20 8. The device of claim 6 further comprising an activity sensor for measuring an activity level and wherein the resume command is generated upon measurement of an activity level above a specified threshold value.

9. The device of claim 1 further comprising an activity sensor for measuring an activity level and wherein the controller is further programmed to disable the delivery of anti-tachyarrhythmia therapy indefinitely upon receipt of an indefinite suspend with activity re-enable command from the external device and to re-enable the delivery of anti-tachyarrhythmia therapy upon measurement of an activity level above a specified threshold value.

10. The device of claim 1 further comprising a magnetic switch actuated by application of a magnetic field and wherein the controller is further programmed to disable the delivery of anti-tachyarrhythmia therapy indefinitely upon receipt of an indefinite suspend with magnetic re-enable command from the external device and to
5 re-enable the delivery of anti-tachyarrhythmia therapy upon actuation of the magnetic switch.

11. The device of claim 1 wherein the one or more stimulation channels include a pacing channel for delivering anti-tachycardia pacing and wherein the controller is
10 programmed to cause delivery of anti-tachyarrhythmia therapy in the form of anti-tachycardia pacing upon detection of a tachyarrhythmia.

12. The device of claim 1 wherein the one or more stimulation channels include a shock channel for delivering cardioversion/defibrillation shocks and wherein the
15 controller is programmed to cause delivery of anti-tachyarrhythmia therapy in the form of a cardioversion/defibrillation shock upon detection of a tachyarrhythmia.

13. The device of claim 1 wherein the one or more stimulation channels include a pacing channel for delivering anti-tachycardia pacing and a shock channel for
20 delivering cardioversion/defibrillation shocks, and wherein the controller is programmed to cause delivery of anti-tachyarrhythmia therapy in the form of anti-tachycardia pacing upon detection of a tachyarrhythmia in a tachycardia zone and in the form of a cardioversion/defibrillation shock upon detection of a tachyarrhythmia in a fibrillation zone.

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14. The device of claim 1 wherein the controller is programmed to disable anti-tachyarrhythmia therapy by disabling one or more sensing channels.

15. The device of claim 1 wherein the one or more stimulation channels include a pacing channel for delivering bradycardia pacing in an inhibited demand mode and further wherein the controller is programmed to disable anti-tachyarrhythmia therapy by disabling one or more sensing channels which thereby also causes the device to
5 revert to an asynchronous pacing mode.

16. An implantable cardiac rhythm management device, comprising:
a sensing channel for sensing an electrogram signal representing cardiac electrical activity and circuitry for generating a chamber sense when the electrogram
10 signal exceeds a specified threshold;
one or more stimulation channels for delivering electrical stimulation to a subject's heart;
a controller programmed to detect a tachyarrhythmia from the rate at which chamber senses are generated and to cause delivery of anti-tachyarrhythmia therapy
15 through one or more of the stimulation channels upon detection of a tachyarrhythmia;
a magnetic switch interfaced to the controller which is actuated by application of a magnetic field;
a telemetry interface by which the controller may communicate with an external device; and,
20 wherein the controller is programmed to disable the delivery of anti-tachyarrhythmia therapy indefinitely upon receipt of an indefinite suspend with magnetic re-enable command from the external device and to re-enable the delivery of anti-tachyarrhythmia therapy upon actuation of the magnetic switch.

25 17. The device of claim 16 wherein the one or more stimulation channels include a pacing channel for delivering bradycardia pacing in an inhibited demand mode and further wherein the controller is programmed to disable anti-tachyarrhythmia therapy by disabling the sensing channel which thereby also causes the device to revert to an asynchronous pacing mode.

18. An implantable cardiac rhythm management device, comprising:

a sensing channel for sensing an electrogram signal representing cardiac electrical activity and circuitry for generating a chamber sense when the electrogram signal exceeds a specified threshold;

5 one or more stimulation channels for delivering electrical stimulation to a subject's heart;

a controller programmed to detect a tachyarrhythmia from the rate at which chamber senses are generated and to cause delivery of anti-tachyarrhythmia therapy through one or more of the stimulation channels upon detection of a tachyarrhythmia;

10 an activity sensor interfaced to the controller for measuring an activity level;

a telemetry interface by which the controller may communicate with an external device; and,

wherein the controller is programmed to disable the delivery of the anti-tachyarrhythmia therapy indefinitely upon receipt of an indefinite suspend with activity
15 re-enable command from the external device and to re-enable the delivery of anti-tachyarrhythmia therapy upon measurement of an activity level above a specified threshold value.

19. The device of claim 18 wherein the one or more stimulation channels include a
20 pacing channel for delivering bradycardia pacing in an inhibited demand mode and further wherein the controller is programmed to disable anti-tachyarrhythmia therapy by disabling the sensing channel which thereby also causes the device to revert to an asynchronous pacing mode.